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ing mid-summer the surface waters reach a temperature of 23° C., the bottom waters being 14° or 15°. The lake is at this time in stable equilibrium and the stagnant bottom waters are unfit for most forms of life. But by the end of September the surface has cooled so that a uniform temperature prevails from top to bottom; then gales easily overturn the water body and it slowly cools as a 'homothermous' mass to the winter minimum.

W. M. DAVIS.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

CLIMATIC CONTROL OF TRANSPORTATION IN
NORTHERN RUSSIA.

FROM a recent book, entitled 'A Northern Highway of the Tzar,' by Trevor-Battye (London, Constable, 1898), there is much of interest to be learned concerning the marked control which the climatic condition of northern Russia in October exert over transportation and over the occupations of the inhabitants. October is known in that region as the Rasputnya season, Rasputnya meaning literally 'the separation of the roads.' At this season 'the first frosts have thawed and the first snows melted,' streams of broken ice block the rivers, the morasses are like quagmires; 'the tracks, where any advance has been attempted upon old forest bog, a mixture of treacle and glue.' There is an almost complete interruption of travel, owing to the condition of the roads and streams, until the settled frost of winter has united the land and the water into one solid frozen surface. "During the whole of October the government postal service is stopped, labor contracts are off, and the keepers of the stages are entirely freed from their usual obligation to supply the traveller with horses and sleighs." The control over transportation, here brought out in one of its aspects, is an important relation of climate and man which has not yet received the careful study it deserves.

KITE METEOROLOGY IN THE ANTARCTIC.

IN *Das Wetter* for May, Sprung advocates the use of kites on the proposed Antarctic expeditions, for the purpose of securing accurate data as to the vertical temperature gradient in high southern latitudes. At present the calculation of the pressures at altitudes of 2,000-4,000 meters in these latitudes leads to rather unsatisfactory results, owing to the uncertainty which exists concerning the actual temperatures prevailing there above the earth's surface. By the use of thermographs elevated on kite lines, as has been so successfully done at Blue Hill, it would be possible to obtain accurate temperature data from the free air at considerable altitudes, and these observations could be used in calculating the pressures aloft with a considerable degree of accuracy.

AURORAS IN LONDON FROM 1707 TO 1895.

A RECENT paper by Mossman, on 'The Aurora Borealis in London from 1707 to 1895,' (*Journal Scottish Meteorological Society*, Nos. 13 and 14, 1897), shows that the maximum numbers were observed in 1848, 1787, 1789 and 1872. Auroras are most frequent in October and April, and least frequent in December and June.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GUERRERO.

THE State of Guerrero lies on the Pacific, directly south of the City of Mexico. Before the Conquest it was peopled by the Mixtecs, who had a picture writing of their own; by the Nahuas, who were in the majority; and by lesser tribes. The Mexican antiquary, Orozco y Berra, writing thirty-five years ago, asserted his belief that within its area would be found one of the oldest sites of the American race (*Geografia de las Lenguas*, p. 239).

Especial interest, therefore, attaches to